

### **REMARKS**

The following remarks are provided in response to the Office Action ("office action") mailed March 18, 2008 in which the Examiner:

- rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Pub. 2002/0033791 to Arakawa (hereinafter Arakawa).
- objected to claims 4-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- claims 11-29 are allowed

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above referenced patent application for the following reasons:

#### **Claims 1-3 rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa. Independent claim 1, from which claims 2 and 3 depend, has been amended to include the elements of allowed claim 9 and intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 9 are herein canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1 and 3 in view of the amendments.

#### **Allowance of claims 11-29 and objection to claims 4-10**

The office action allowed claims 11-29 and objected to claims 4-10 as being

dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowance of claims 11-29.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 4-10 depend, has been amended to include the elements of allowed claim 9 and intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 9 are herein canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 4-8 and 10 in view of the amendments.

### CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that they have overcome the office action's objections to and rejections of the claims and that they have the right to claim the invention as set forth in the listed claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), the Applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, L.L.P.

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Date

1279 Oakmead Parkway  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040  
Telephone: (503) 439-8778  
Facsimile: (503) 439-6073

/Justin K. Brask/

Justin K. Brask  
Reg. No. 61,080